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Security Council

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English
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Note verbale dated 16 June 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations has the honour to transmit to the President of the Security Council a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, Stéphane Dion (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Canada would be grateful if the President of the Security Council would have the present note and its annex issued as documents of the Security Council.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 16 June 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

I am writing to you in your capacity as the President of the United Nations Security Council, with respect to the approach proposed by Canada on 31 May 2016, in connection with the desperate plight of civilians in Iraq and Syria, who have suffered and continue to suffer acts of unimaginable cruelty and brutality at the hands of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

We have noted the troubling findings of a new report prepared by the United Nations Human Rights Council regarding the tragic plight of the Yazidi population of Sinjar. That report, prepared by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (A/HRC/32/CRP.2, of 15 June 2016), finds that ISIL has committed and is continuing to commit crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, against the Yazidi population of Sinjar.

In light of the emergence of these new facts, and given certain recommendations of the report of the Independent International Commission regarding the role of the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly, and the United Nations Human Rights Council, Canada hereby reiterates its wish that the United Nations Security Council be urgently seized of this issue and favourably consider Canada's proposal of 31 May 2016 (S/2016/499). We expressly ask the United Nations Security Council to establish a mechanism to investigate reports of violations of international law by ISIL in Iraq and Syria, to determine whether these violations constitute acts of genocide or other serious international crimes, and to identify the perpetrators of such violations and measures, to ensure accountability for the crimes perpetrated by ISIL in Iraq and Syria, including a referral to the International Criminal Court as appropriate.

I would be grateful for this letter to be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stéphane **Dion**, M.P.